
To: Education and Children Policy Board

On: 14 May 2015

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Renfrewshire Family Information Service

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Childcare Information Service was established to provide parents/carers with reliable and up-to-date high quality information about childcare in Renfrewshire. Renfrewshire's Childcare Information Service was first launched in January 2000.
 - 1.2. A specific action for the Renfrewshire early years strategy is to develop a family information service for use by families, communities and professionals.
 - 1.3. In order to better support families a rebranding and broadening of the focus of Renfrewshire's Childcare Information Services to a Family Information Service is proposed. This will build on the very effective provision already in place and ensure families are able to receive the information they need in a timely and accurate manner.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The education and children policy board is ask to approve:
 - (i) the rebranding and broadening of focus of Renfrewshire's Childcare information service to a family information service; and
 - (ii) approve the change of title to Renfrewshire Family Information Service.
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3. Background

- 3.1. Childcare Information Services were established in 1999 as part of the Scottish Executive's Childcare Strategy. Based in and operated by each local authority the information service provides parents/carers with reliable and up-to-date high-quality information about childcare in their area. Information Services were seen as vital to allow parents/carers with childcare responsibilities to respond quickly to job, training and education opportunities.

- 3.2. Renfrewshire Council launched its Childcare Information Service in January 2000 and have continued to provide information and guidance on a full range of childcare services, including range of provision and availability of:
- Nurseries;
 - Childminders;
 - Pre School Education;
 - Playgroups; and
 - Out of School Care.
- 3.3 The Scottish Government's Early Years Framework, introduced in December 2008, proposed that Childcare Information Services be developed to become Family Information Services, to provide a range of advice and information services to family to help them understand and make informed choices about parenting and services.
- 3.4 In response to this Renfrewshire's Childcare Information service extended the range of information available for families to include information on:
- Parenting;
 - Community groups;
 - Libraries;
 - Health and Wellbeing advice;
 - Child protection;
 - Additional support needs;
 - Work and finance advice; and
 - Holiday and leisure activities.
- 3.5 Renfrewshire's Strategy for the early years aims to give children in Renfrewshire the best start in life. Key community partners have developed a plan to support the implementation of the strategy, focusing on a family centred approach as a means to improving outcomes for children and families.
- 3.6 A specific action for the early years strategy is to develop a family information service for use by families, communities and professionals. The rebranding and further development of Renfrewshire's existing childcare information service will ensure that information provided will be beneficial for families, communities and professionals.
- 3.7 In addition the My Renfrewshire directory (myrenfrewshire.org.uk) was developed to collate existing information from social media sites (Facebook and Yelp for example) as well as some existing websites such as the Scottish Family Information Service. It was developed in conjunction with partners from across the Community Planning Partnership and provides information for many groups including older people as well as families with young children. A formal launch followed by a period of engagement with local partners and communities to promote the directory is being planned for later this year.

- 3.8 My Renfrewshire is part of the wider Looking Local programme and has the ability to promote information through Digital TV community channels (Sky 539 and Virgin 233). This will allow key information to be promoted via digital TV and target families who may not have access to online information. This will include key contact details for childcare information in Renfrewshire.
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Implications of this report

1. Financial Implications

None.

2. HR and Organisational Development Implications

None.

3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications

Children and Young People

- Families will be provided with a range of up-to-date information which will enable them to make informed choices to meet the needs of their children and family.

Community Care, Health and Well-being

- Families will be supported through the provision of information and advice on health and well being.

4. Legal Implications

None.

5. Property/Assets Implications

None.

6. Information Technology Implications

None.

7. Equality and Human Rights Implications

The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report as the service is being expanded. A copy of the equality impact assessment is available on request.

8. Health and Safety Implications

None.

9. Procurement Implications

None.

10. Risk Implications

None.

11. Privacy Impact

None.

List of Background Papers

(a) None

Children's Services
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